



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

April 29, 2011

## **Natural Areas Appreciation Week Events, May 7 to May 14, 2011**

### **Field Outings**

**When:** May 7, 2011, 9:30-3:00

**What:** Wagons and Wildflowers—Columbia Hills Natural Area

Come enjoy talks on native cultural history, ice age floods, wildflower and wildlife hikes, living history activities, and fun activities for the kids.

**Bring:** Walking shoes/hiking boots, binoculars, water and field guides.

**Who:** Keyna Bugner (360) 925-0906, Tony Sachet (509) 925-0940 or  
Washington State Parks 509-767-1159

**Where:** Dalles Mountain Ranch, Columbia Hills State Park & Columbia Hills Natural Area.  
**Driving directions:** From Junction of Hwy 197 and Hwy 14, drive east on Hwy 14 for 1 mile. Turn left onto Dalles Mt. Rd and follow for 3 miles. Dalles Mt. Ranch is on the left.

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**When:** May 7, 2011, 9:00-Noon

**What:** Art and Nature at Washougal Oaks NRCA

Participants will learn about this striking oak forest preserve and plants and animals that live there—names of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers; and will make prints on paper and fabric using found, natural objects.

**Bring:** Walking shoes/hiking boots, binoculars, water, clothes that can get dirty or painted. Bring a white T-shirt, bandana, or other blank, cotton piece of cloth to make a print to frame or wear. Art supplies are provided by DNR and Kahnaway & Ecology Center.

**Who:** **To sign up, contact:** Carlo Abbruzzese, (360) 575-5056. Kahnaway Art Center

**Where:** Meet at Kahnaway Art and Ecology Center, 37138 SE Gibson Road.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 14 about 2 miles east of Washougal. Turn left onto Evergreen Blvd., then right onto Gibson Rd. Take Gibson road for 1 mile, we'll meet at the large green barn on the left side of the road.

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**When:** May 7, 2011, 9:30-3:00

**What:** Ponds, Views and Wildflowers at Dishman Hills Natural Area

A lovely gem close to Spokane, but with plenty of nature. Moderate 3-mile trail walk (round trip), up and down terrain. We'll enjoy wildflowers in bloom at East and West Ponds, Enchanted Ravine and Eagle Peak, featuring a sweeping panorama of Spokane Valley and beyond.

**Bring:** Walking shoes/hiking boots, snacks, water and wildflower book. Dogs on leash are welcome.

**Who:** Andrew Ashmore (509) 242-4541 or (208) 262-1238. Visit [www.dhnaa.org](http://www.dhnaa.org) for more information about the Dishman Hills Natural Area.

**Where:** Dishman Hills parking lot on southwest corner of East Appleway Blvd. and South Sargent Rd., 250 South Sargent Rd., Spokane, WA 99212.

**Directions:** From I-90, Argonne Rd., Exit 287. Drive 1.2 miles south on North Argonne Rd. to East Sprague Ave.; Turn right on Sprague and get into far left lane. Go 0.3 miles. Turn left on South Sargent Rd. Go 0.2 miles to intersection of East Appleway Blvd. and South Sargent Rd. Cross Appleway. Dishman Hills lot is on the right. A sign marks the entrance.

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**When:** **May 10, 2011, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**What:** **Evening Bat Tour at Woodard Bay**

Come learn about bats from our very own Natural Heritage Biologist, John Fleckenstein. We hope to see hundreds of bats emerge from the largest maternity roost known in Washington. The Woodard Bay manager also will be on hand to discuss large-scale estuary restoration efforts. Participants will walk a 3/4-mile road to the site. The tour will leave before dusk and return after dark.

**Bring:** Bring walking shoes/hiking boots, warm clothes, binoculars, water, and flashlight. There is a bathroom along the trail, but no drinking water.

**Who:** **To sign up, contact** Michele Zukerberg, (360) 790-9770

**Where:** Meet at the Woodard Bay NRCA parking lot, next to gate.

**Directions:** From Olympia, head north on Plum St., which becomes East Bay Dr., and then Boston Harbor Rd. Turn right onto Woodard Bay Rd. Travel 1+ mile along Woodard Bay; the road jogs left and then picks up to the right again. The parking lot is on your left at the bottom of the hill, adjacent to Woodard Bay before the bridge.

**More info:** For information about bats at Woodard Bay, visit  
<http://www.batsaboutourtown.com/pages/WoodardBay.htm>

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**When:** **May 14, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**What:** **Prairie Appreciation Day–Mima Mounds and Glacial Heritage**  
**Guided nature walks throughout the day**

Scheduled walks at Mima Mounds also can be arranged by calling Birdie Davenport at the number below. Come see a spectacular array of native wildflowers and butterflies as well as new interpretive signs that explain how these mounds may have been formed.

A variety of family friendly events will take place at the Glacial Heritage preserve south of Mima Mounds.

**Bring:** Walking shoes/hiking boots, binoculars, water and field guides. **Pets are NOT allowed at either site**, so please leave them at home.

**Who:** Birdie Davenport, (360) 596-5144 or visit <http://www.prairieappreciationday.org/>

**Where:** **Directions:** Take I-5 to Exit 95, the Littlerock exit, about 10 miles south of Olympia. Go west through Littlerock to the 'T' intersection at Mima Road/Waddell Creek Rd. Turn right on Waddell Creek Rd.; go 0.7 miles north. The preserve is on the left. To reach Glacial Heritage, go south (left) on Mima Road 2.7 miles and take a left onto the unmarked gravel road. Follow the road to its end and park near the gate.

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**When:** **May 14, 2011, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

**What: Afternoon walk, Conservation and Restoration at Mima Mounds NAP**

This short, easy 1-to-2 mile guided walk over relatively flat ground will be lead by DNR ecologist Dave Wilderman. Dave will discuss recent restoration and monitoring work as well as upcoming projects to protect the mounded prairie and oak woodlands. Dave will also point out some of the native prairie plants.

**Bring:** Walking shoes/hiking boots, binoculars, water and field guides.

**Pets are NOT allowed**, so please leave them at home.

**Who:** Dave Wilderman, (360) 902-1556

**Where:** Take I-5 to Exit 95, the Littlerock exit, about 10 miles south of Olympia. Go west through Littlerock to the 'T' intersection at Mima Road/Waddell Creek Rd. Turn right on Waddell Creek Rd., go 0.7 miles north. The preserve is on the left.

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**When: May 14, 2011, 12 Noon**

**What: Spartina Survey on the Niawiakum and Bone River Natural Area Preserves**

Annual survey of the Niawiakum and Bone Rivers to map locations of the invasive plant Spartina or smooth cordgrass. Volunteers will paddle to a section of the river and walk the saltmarsh looking for and mapping this invasive species. Spartina is a serious threat to the bay and surrounding rivers, changing the marine habitat, affecting fish, shellfish and wildlife habitat. After the survey, we'll meet at a local park for an oyster BBQ/potluck.

**Bring:** Canoe or kayak with paddles, life vest, bow lines, tight-fitting boots, lunch, water, hat with visor, change of clothing in a dry bag, sunglasses, first-aid kit.

**Who: RSVP required by calling Carlo Abbruzzese** (360) 575-5056. Space is limited

**Where:** We'll meet at Goose Point Oysters. From South Bend take Hwy 101 south about 10 miles. The oyster plant is on the west, or right side of the highway, just before you pass over the Niawiakum River.

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**When: May 14, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**What: Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area—"Women in the Woods"**

This event, which is co-sponsored by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and Issaquah REI, will be conducting a trail restoration event on the popular Little Si trail in the Mount Si NRCA. Volunteers will build a rock turnpike, retaining walls, and restore areas around the trail. This event is open to all women ages 14 and older.

**Bring:** Work/hiking boots and long pants required.

**Who:** For more information, contact Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust at [volunteer@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:volunteer@mtsgreenway.org) or 206-812-0122.

**Where:** We'll meet at Little Si Trailhead.

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**When: May 14, 2011, Noon – 4:00 p.m.**

**What: Mount Si NRCA — Talus loop trail hike**

Mid-elevation moderately strenuous loop trail, about 3.5 miles long with spectacular views of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley in the Cascade Mountains foothills. The 3-to 4-hour hike will begin at the Mt. Si Trailhead just outside of North

Bend. This event is intended for all people that are in at least moderately good shape and familiar with hiking. Group size is limited to 12.

**Bring:** Sturdy hiking boots, binoculars, water and field guides.

**Who:** **Sign up with** Kelly Heintz DNR Natural Areas Manager, (425) 466-6145.

**Where:** Mt. Si Trailhead.

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## **Brown Bag Lunches and Natural Areas—in Olympia**

**When:** **May 9, 2011, Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**What:** **Changes in the abundance of shorebirds at Kennedy Creek Natural Area**

**Preserve:** Perspectives on establishing conservation baselines-

Joseph B. Buchanan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Many shorebird species in North America and globally are known or believed to be experiencing population declines. Habitat loss or degradation likely contributes to population changes. Impacts to wetlands and estuarine habitats have occurred in Puget Sound. Other factors, however, also have been identified. Between 1977 and 2009, Buchanan monitored shorebird abundance in all seasons at the Kennedy Creek NAP in south Puget Sound. He will discuss his findings regarding dramatic changes in the abundance of four shorebird species that are migrants and winter residents at the site. He also will discuss the need for understanding additional factors that limit their abundance before baselines or population targets can be confidently generated.

**Where:** Room 175A, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia 98504-4700

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**When:** **May 13, 2011, Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**What:** **Chehalis River Surge Plain restoration and Preachers Slough Fish passage**

Birdie Davenport, DNR Natural Areas Manager

This talk details restoration projects at the Chehalis River Surge Plain. Projects include restoring fish passage and hydrology to a major tidal slough, controlling invasive species, and replanting native species along the slough and river shoreline at two sites. The Chehalis River Surge Plain is an extraordinary high quality wetland with unique plant communities and abundant fish, birds and other wildlife.

**Where:** Room 172, Natural Resource Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia 98504-4700

## **Other DNR Partners' Events**

### **Great Peninsula Conservancy**

**When:** May 7, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

**What:** Guillemot Cove Wildflower Walk

Wendy McClure

Moderate hike, about 3-4 miles round trip, down into valley and back up. Wendy McClure of the Washington Native Plant Society returns to lead another of her always popular wildflower walks at scenic Guillemot Cove Preserve. The walk will be approximately 4 hours, taking us through the woods to the coast for lunch. On the return, we'll visit the mysterious stump house.

Limited to 15 people.

**Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes, binoculars, water and wildflower books (Wendy recommends *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* by Pojar and Mackinnon.)

**Where:** Guillemot Cove, Seabeck

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**When:** May 14, 2011, 9:00– 10:30 a.m.

**What:** Big Tree Tour at Chico Creek Walk, Bremerton

Jim Trainer

Moderate hike, 3-mile round trip on primitive trail, up and down terrain. Jim Trainer leads a walk in the Chico Creek watershed. This walk provides an opportunity to view an eagle's nest and the largest Douglas-fir in Kitsap County. Children are welcome. Group size is limited to 15.

**Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes, binoculars, water and field guides

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## **City of Eugene, Natural Resources**

**When:** May 11, 2011

**What:** Delta Ponds Restoration Project in Eugene on Wednesday

City of Eugene, Parks and Open Space Division

## **DNR and Washington State Natural Areas**

DNR manages 134,000 acres as a statewide system of significant sites—State Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves that protect native ecosystems and the plant and animal species that depend on them. They provide access for education and low-impact public use, where appropriate.

DNR, its partners and volunteers restore and protect habitat and take many opportunities during the year to lead tours and share information about these natural treasures.

**Media Contact:** Jane Chavey, Senior Communications Manager, 360-902-1721, [jane.chavey@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:jane.chavey@dnr.wa.gov)

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